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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9069
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 6624
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 6925
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2232
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 4971
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 6179
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2597
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 4297
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3294
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: NEPAL: DAHAL SWORN IN AS PRIME MINISTER

In a short but formal afternoon ceremony August 18 Pushpa Kamal Dahal (aka Prachanda) was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Nepal. Dahal took the oath of office from President Yadav, substituting the phrase 'in the name of the people' for 'in the name of God' read by President Yadav. Outgoing Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala was not in attendance, though other prominent party leaders were at the Presidential Palace for the ceremony. Leaders from the Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist (UML), and Madhesi People's Rights Forum (MPRF) continue to hold off on signing a common minimum program and code of conduct for the new government until the parties reach agreement with the Maoists on the distribution of cabinet portfolios.

POWELL